

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 05919 101707Z

61

ACTION SCI-06

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SUBJ: DEVELOPMENTS IN GOA SCIENCE ORGANIZATION AND US/ARGENTINE
SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

1. DESPITE THE FACT THAT A MINISTRY OF SCIENCE WILL NOT BE CREATED BY THE SOON TO BE ENACTED LAW OF MINISTRIES, DUE TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITATION OF EIGHT MINISTRIES, AND THE CONTINUING DELAY IN ESTABLISHING A SECRETARIAT OF SCIENCE, THE GOVERNMENT SCIENCE PICTURE IS BEGINNING TO STABILIZE SOMEWHAT. IN THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (CONICET), AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS JUST BEEN CREATED TO PERFORM, IN EFFECT, THE SCIENTIFIC REVIEW FUNCTIONS OF THE DISBANDED COUNCIL ITSELF. THE NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL BE HEADED BY NOBEL LAUREATE DR LUIS LELOIR, AND IS COMPOSED PREDOMINANTLY OF ESTABLISHED MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, INCLUDING FORMER CHAIRMAN JUAN BURGOS AND SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL THAT WAS DISSOLVED SHORTLY AFTER MAY 25. PERHAPS THE MOST INTERESTING ASPECT OF THIS DEVELOPMENT IS THE DECISION OF DR LELOIR TO BREAK WITH HIS LONGSTANDING PRACTICE OF AVOIDING ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES, BY ACTIVELY HEADING THE NEW COMMITTEE. THE PRESUMPTION IS THAT LELOIR HAS CONCLUDED THAT UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS HIS PRESTIGE IS NEEDED TO HELP RESTORE ORDER TO THE SITUATION AND PRECLUDE THE POSITION BEING FILLED BY SOMEONE HOSTILE TO THE EXISTING SCIENTIFIC ESTABLISHMENT. IN ADDITION TO

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 05919 101707Z

APPOINTMENT OF THIS NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE, BOTH DRS RAUL MATERA,

THE PRESUMED CHOICE TO HEAD A NEW SCIENCE AGENCY IF ONE IS CREATED, AND DR PEDRO COSSIO, PERON'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN, HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AS ADVISORS TO CONICET INTERVENTOR VICENTE CICARDO.

2. AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (INTI), A NEW DIRECTING COUNCIL, HEADED BY THE APPARENT NEW PRESIDENT OF INTI, ING. JORGE ALBERTONI, HAS FINALLY BEEN APPOINTED. COMPARATIVELY LITTLE IS KNOWN OF THIS NEW GROUP TO THE FORMER INTI AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, THEIR POLITICAL ORIENTATION AS A GROUP HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS LEFT OF CENTER, ALTHOUGH NOT IN AN EXTREME SENSE, IN KEEPING WITH THE VIEWS OF ALBERTONI HIMSELF. THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS AND, TO A LARGE DEGREE, SCIENTIFIC WORK ITSELF AT INTI HAS BEEN AT A VIRTUAL STANDSTILL PENDING THE DESIGNATION OF THE NEW MANAGEMENT.

3. AT THE NATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (CNEA), DESPITE THE PROMPT INSTALLATION OF A WELL-REGARDED NEW HEAD BY THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT SOON AFTER MAY 25, THE SITUATION CONTINUES TO BE QUITE DISCOURAGING. THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENT IS THE REMOVAL OF BOTH THE MANAGER AND ASSISTANT MANAGER AT THE ATUCHA POWER STATION, AS THE RESULT OF LABOR UNION PRESSURE FOLLOWING THEIR REFUSAL TO AGREE TO SHORTER WORKING HOURS. THE POSITIONS OF OTHER SENIOR CNEA MANAGERIAL PERSONNEL ARE STILL IN JEOPARDY, AS JUNIOR STAFF MEMBERS CONTINUE THEIR ACTIVE INTERVENTION IN MANAGEMENT AFFAIRS.

4. FROM THE US STANDPOINT, AN EXCEPTIONALLY ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT IS THE CIRCULATION, WITHIN THE LAST FEW DAYS TO CONICET AND OTHER

SCIENCE AGENCIES OF A WRITTEN REQUEST FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SCIENCE OFFICE TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UNDER US/ARGENTINE SCIENCE BILATERAL. THIS REQUEST CONSIDERABLY IMPROVES THE CHANCES THAT ATTRACTIVE PROPOSALS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO NSF PRIOR TO THE OCTOBER 15 DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS. THE EMBASSY URGES, THEREFORE, THAT NSF PROGRAMMING RETAIN SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBILITY TO ACCOMMODATE ACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS UNDER THE AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING AS MANY AFFIRMATIVE ELEMENTS AS POSSIBLE WITH PRESENT RELATIONS GOVERNMENT.

KREBS

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